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POETRY OF THE BIBLE.

We have had an inquiry as to what is meant when it is said that the Bible prophets are also poets and that parts of the Bible are in poetry.

Since very few parts of the Bible are in rhymed lines, and since only a part of it is in verse, and that part is arranged as if it were prose, most people are puzzled when any speaker or writer refers to the "poetry" of the sacred volume.

"Poet" is, as is well known, the Greek word for "maker," the poet is the maker or creator or author of what is called creative literature—that in which something is added in an imaginative or ideal way to the known facts. Thus it is said that Shakespeare created the character of Hamlet; Sophocles, that of Oedipus.

Both these characters may have really existed; but the poets have idealized them by working up the incidents of their lives in such a way as to present more vividly the lesson which their actions faithfully recorded would more dimly teach.

The poet thus adds something to the sum of known existences; he creates characters that make an appeal to our minds independently of their historical reality. The poet may therefore be said to be the nearest representative of the Divine Maker of the universe; for the poet is likewise a creator.

In the English version, Paul says, "We are God's workmanship;" but in the Greek the reading is, "We are God's poems." The Greek rendering shows the identity in meaning between "creator" and "poet."

The historian, philosopher, or orator, states facts only; the singer, the author of a drama, the poet, may according to certain laws rise above the limitations of fact and reach truth by illustration. As Prof. Moulton says, "The philosopher argues what goodness is; the dramatist creates a good man; both are helping us to be good."

We have said that rhyme is not necessary to poetry. In Latin and Greek, the verse depends upon what is called the quantity of the successive syllables; in Old English, alliteration—the recurrence of similar sounds in the same line—constituted verse. Thus:

In a somer season when soft was the son,
I shope me in shroudes as I a shepe were.

In Hebrew poetry the literary form consists in a recurrence of the same thought in another form or in the repetition of a similar clause; so that "the foundation of Hebrew verse is a recurrence, not of sounds, but of parallel clauses." Thus in Proverbs 4:23-27 we have:

Keep thy heart with all diligence;
For out of it are the issues of life.
Put from thee a forward mouth,
And perverse lips put far from thee.
Let thine eyes look straight on,
And let thine eyelids look straight before thee.
Ponder the path of thy feet.

And let all thy ways be established.
Turn not to the right hand nor to the left:
Remove thy foot from evil.

This simple parallelism is a favorite, but not the only form of poetic dress in the Psalms. Thus we have in 106:35—

He turneth the wilderness into a standing water,
And dry ground into water springs.
And there he maketh the hungry to dwell.

That they may prepare a city for habitation.
And sow the fields and plant vineyards,
Which may yield fruits of increase.
He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly.
And suffereth not their cattle to decrease.

But in other verses of the same psalm there are recurring refrains in addition to the simple parallels in twos, so that the structure of the verse is quite complex.

By reading only the first line of the poetic verses given above, it will be seen that the poetry has been changed into prose. Thus:

Keep thy heart with all diligence.
Put from thee a forward mouth.
Let thine eyes look straight on.
Ponder the path of thy feet.

Turn not to the right hand nor to the left.
So in Numbers 23: 8-10 we read in poetical form the declaration of Balaam beginning:

How shall I curse whom God hath not cursed?
And how shall I defy whom the Lord hath not defied?

The language is majestic itself, and still remains noble prose if we omit each of the second lines; yet that omission changes the poetic into the prose form.

So in Psalms 107 the recurrence of certain lines at regular intervals verses 6, 13 and 19, also in verses 8, 15 and 21, constitutes refrains that serve to divide the poetry in complex stanzas similar to certain forms employed by the English poets.

So the Lamentations of Jeremiah (see 2: 6-7) often take similar poetic forms; the "Song of Songs," which is Solomon's, is all poetry; while many of the prophecies of Isaiah exhibit that parallelism of structure, that recurrence of phraseology similar in thought or construction, that bi-lateral or multi-lateral symmetry which is the basis of all beauty of form or sound.

Sometimes Hebrew poetry consists of an alphabetical arrangement; each line commencing with one of the letters of the alphabet, or every alternate

verse beginning with a succeeding letter, or a series of verses with the same initial letter. In Psalm 119, in the original, eight verses in succession begin with the same letter. The entire Psalm is therefore divided into alphabetical strophes. There are eleven other poems in the Old Testament, similarly arranged. Another form is the repetition of the same verse, or sentiment, at regular intervals in the composition. See for instance Psalm 42: 5, 11. But the most striking form is the parallelism referred to above. To this we owe the beauty of the translations of the Scripture poems, because even the translations, being literal, retain the form and structure of the original. And, as one member of a sentence frequently expresses the same sense as its parallel, difficult words and phrases are thus made more easily understood.

SLOT MACHINES.

"By what authority are the slot machines running in Salt Lake, at present?"

This question a highly respected citizen of this city—a non-Mormon—has requested the "News" to answer.

The City ordinances provide that "it shall be unlawful for any person to operate or maintain" slot machines without a license, and that "no license shall be issued for the operation or maintenance of any machine which is used for the purpose of gaming for money or other property." This is explicit enough, and under this ordinance the slot machines were, at one time, confiscated. It was then demonstrated that an order from the Chief of Police was all that was needed to end that form of gambling.

On December 24th, 1906, a case entitled the City vs. John Smith came up for decision in Judge C. B. Diehl's court. The defendant was accused of operating a gambling device and the matter was submitted upon an agreed statement of facts and a brief was also submitted. Assistant City Attorney P. J. Daly had the prosecution in hand, while the defense was represented by Attorney Soren X. Christensen.

The latter contended that the slot machine run by the defendant, was not a gambling device. He argued that, under the statutes, it was necessary for the City to prove that the machine in question was operated for money, or things representing money. Judge Diehl took the case under advisement and rendered a decision to the effect that the particular slot machine was not a gambling device, for the reason that the winner was paid either in checks or merchandise.

At the time this decision was rendered, money slot machines were running in this city, and had the operator of one of them been tried for maintaining a gambling device, the decision would probably have been different. Shortly after the case was disposed of here, a similar one was tried in Ogden before Judge Murphy. Judge Horn was special counsel for the City and prosecuted the case vigorously. The same question was involved as in the Salt Lake case and Judge Murphy rendered the same decision as handed down by Judge Diehl.

Recently a movement was started by the present administration to make a levy of \$3 per month upon each slot machine operated in the City. Under the ordinance, if Judge Diehl's decision is correct, the City has the power to license, tax and control slot machines, but it seems that the "American" officials do not want to do this. In spite of the decisions rendered, the powers that be, justly, we believe, insist that slot machines are "gambling devices" and accordingly now levy a tribute, or a fine of \$3 per month from each, on that ground. The scheme is one for revenue only. It is taxation of a business prohibited by the City ordinance.

We have been informed, however, that Judge Diehl has modified his opinion on the legality of running slot machines. If this is true, another test case ought to be made. There is little doubt that they would be condemned, if another hearing were asked for.

The Chief of Police can order them removed as illegal gambling devices. For the fact that the operators are fined \$3 a month proves that they are considered illegal. Or the Mayor can take the initiative if he is so disposed. There is no excuse for tolerating them any longer. They are operated against the law. But the party dictators who have usurped the right to rule the City officials are, in the last instance, responsible for their operation.

THAT BOND ISSUE.

The Tribune is horrified at the idea of a "partisan" opposition to the proposed bond issue. It is, in fact, disgusted with any kind of objection on the part of the citizens to the exploitation of the City in the interest of grafters.

It expects them to applaud when the administration proposes to tie another milestone around the neck of the community.

But that sheet, partisan to the extreme limit of fanaticism, does not hesitate to hound and harass persons in the employ of the City, who refuse to worship at its shrine. It has clamored for the discharge of every City employee who does not wear the "mark of the beast" in his forehead. And then it holds up its hands in horror at the mere thought of "partisanship." The Tribune plays the role of hypocrite and knave with equal nonchalance.

The Tribune also suggests that the failure to publish a financial report for last year should not be a serious objection to replenishing the empty City treasury with borrowed money, for the benefit of the party manipulators. But we believe the citizens generally will consider the failure to comply with the law in this respect as a very suspicious circumstance.

The fact is, this one of the lines of the city auditor is to prepare and publish on or before the first Monday of February a full report, showing the financial status of the City at the end of the previous year. This the present incumbent of the city auditor's office neglected to do. Several weeks after the time fixed by law a partial report was furnished the Council and found its way into print, but it was so incomplete and so unimpaired that it was not accepted by the

finance committee, and was not incorporated published. To this day no financial report, such as the law requires, and signed by the incumbent of the auditor's office, has reached the public, nor even the City Council. Can an administration that refuses to furnish the report the law requires, be trusted with more money? That is the question the Tribune has carefully avoided, so far.

There are many other questions that might profitably be considered in connection with the proposed bond issue. For instance, who was the beneficiary of the \$75,000, or more, that was spent on whitewashing the conduit? What portion of the \$18,000 paid to "special auditors" was money thrown away? What benefits did the City derive from the \$20,000 paid for advertising in the party organ? Who profited by the peculiar transaction by which the public funds were transferred from a bank paying interest on the deposits, to one not paying interest? The City, we have been told, lost in the neighborhood of \$30,000 in that little transaction. Who benefited by it, if anybody? And, finally, what about the sundry irregularities that, according to rumor, were hushed up, when discovered?

The business methods of the administration that asks for more money to spend, though it refuses to give any account of its stewardship, are well illustrated in its high-handed dealings with the citizens of the south-eastern part of the City, in the matter of the laying of sewers. Before the last election the cost was only \$1.30 a foot; after the election, it was \$2.25.

One of the victims of this intended extortion some time ago went to one of the officials to ask for an explanation of the discrepancy, when a conversation took place, of which the following is the substance:

Citizen: "What is the reason that you charge us double the price you have charged citizens in other parts of the City, for the same work?"

Official: "In other parts we used the trench-digger, and that is so much cheaper."

C: "Then, why did you not use the trench-digger in our part of the City?"

O: "Because there were too many tree stumps in the ground."

C: "But you did use the trench-digger for four blocks, and it worked all right. Why did you discontinue to use it?"

O: "Well, to tell the truth, I had to, to give employment to voters."

C: "So that is it? You want me and the others to pay for 'American' votes, under the pretext of paying for 'improvements'?"

No answer!

That tells the entire tale of the business methods of the dictators of the "American" city officials. No wonder it is difficult to get a financial report. They do not want anyone to touch their sore tooth. But they want more money.

The citizens of this City, as a rule, are not in a position to undertake any heavier financial burdens in the form of taxes. Most of them are already taxed to the limit of endurance. More taxes means that people with moderate means will be forced to sell their homes. The real estate market will be depressed, and prices will fall still lower than they are now. What is needed is the emancipation of the City administration from the monster that has fastened itself upon its neck. When it has freed itself from this incubus and become the servant of the people instead of the party dictators, it will know what to do, to extricate the City from the situation into which selfishness and hatred have plunged it. There are business men in the administration, in whom the people have confidence, if they will act as independent officials. But as long as they consent to act the part of insignificant marionettes in the hands of unscrupulous politicians, there is no way out of it. Of course the dictators can order an enormous increase in the tax levy, and although the citizens may be helpless against that form of robbery, popular opinion, when aroused, is a force which even party dictators, conscienceless though they may be, must take into account.

THE HAGUE CONGRESS.

The United States Senate has now ratified the Hague conventions submitted through Secretary Root from the Hague congress last summer. There were thirteen conventions in all, relating principally to the regulation of international conflicts. One of the most important to this country restricts the use of force in the collection of debts. It provides, in part:

"In order to avoid between nations armed conflicts of a purely pecuniary origin arising from contractual debts claimed from the government of one country by the government of another country to be due to its nationals, the contracting powers agree not to have recourse to armed force for the collection of such contractual debts."

"However, this stipulation shall not be applicable when the debtor state refuses or leaves unanswered an offer to arbitrate, or, in case of acceptance, makes it impossible to formulate the terms of submission, or after arbitration, fails to comply with the award rendered."

This agreement is regarded as a long step forward. It will, practically, prevent foreign fleets from again entering American waters to collect debts. By their terms, it has been said, "the Monroe doctrine has made its first and formal entry into the public law of Europe as well as America." It will be somewhat easier, therefore, to enforce that doctrine.

A great deal of criticism, and still more witlessism, was bestowed upon the second Hague congress, at its adjournment. It was called a war congress, and it was predicted that it would be the last international peace congress, owing to its being a complete failure. But Secretary Root does not consider that gathering a failure. His opinion is that the provisions of the conventions adopted, to which the United States is now a party, represent "the greatest advance ever made at any single time toward the reasonable and peaceful regulation of international conduct, unless it be the advance made at the Hague conference of 1899."

doctrine, too. But they did to the extent that they agreed that force should not be used until arbitration had failed. And that means a great advance. There will be no imbrolio on account of our Monroe doctrine. There is one reason less for the maintenance by this country of a gigantic navy.

THE CURRENCY PROBLEM.

Next to taxation, the currency is the most intricate economic problem with which civilized governments have to deal. It is idle, in the present state of public education, to expect the people to solve the problems presented by plans to improve the national currency. Only a small minority among public men possess knowledge of this subject. A long continued study of political economy, finance, and banking usually precedes utterances on this topic among thoughtful men. We have been surprised to note how numerous have been the opinions on the financial measures recently introduced in Congress.

The San Francisco Chronicle is, however, probably near to the exact truth in saying that our present national currency was not the result of an effort to reform our currency, although it did that. It was created to make a market for United States bonds when it was essential to the national life that the bonds should be sold. It was therefore justifiable at the time. Now we do not need to sell bonds and we do not need an elastic currency, which can never be got out of a bond-secured currency. Still, great vested interests have been created in that artificial value imparted to United States bonds by reason of their use as security for currency which cannot be ignored. Probably all that should be done now is to refuse to make any new issues of United States bonds available for that purpose and provide for a currency additional to the present based on a rational law, which in the course of years will become the sole currency.

On this view, which we share, it is probably just as well that the Aldrich bill was not permitted to complicate matters still further by imparting artificial values to other classes of bonds.

The currency problem is one that the people cannot settle. Expert commissions in which the people have confidence will need to be resorted to, and the sooner the better.

When Greeks meet Albanians then comes the tug of war.

Rear Admiral Evans takes mud baths but he never throws mud.

It takes a strong, loud voice to talk through a Merry Widow hat.

Diamond cuts diamond but the diamond trust does not cut prices.

Just like the candidate in Pickwick, Prince Helle de Sagan kissed all the children.

It is well to praise the man who does things provided that the things he does are the right kind.

In the California coast towns the battleship fleet finds that time is fleeting as never before.

All roads led to Rome because they were good roads. Make good roads in Utah and they will all lead to Salt Lake.

There is a boy in Texas who says that he had rather mow the front lawn than go fishing. Let no such boy be trusted.

Senator Gore says that he regards the steel trust as "the tapeworm of the treasury." A steel-tapeworm, of course.

The House committee is considering the Lilley, and doubtless will find that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like him.

The New York market is glutted with strawberries. And now it may be expected that the Gothamites will make gluttons of themselves.

The Panama canal commission expects soon to open an ice cream factory. Life and labor on the isthmus will soon be a continuous picnic.

"Cultivate common sense; it is a good asset," says a contemporary. Get a cultivator, Old Con, and start right in to increase your assets. You have a virgin field.

It is said that Dr. Koch frowned heavily upon New York's skyscrapers as he neared the city. How did he reach a point high enough to frown down upon them?

Though he married her for money, the death of the Duc de Chaumes will cause the sympathy of the whole country to go out to the Duchess de Chaumes, the daughter of Mr. Theodore Shonts.

If the United States buys armor plates for its battleships cheaper than any other country buys, why cannot the United States build its battleships cheaper than any other country?

For the people of this city to vote for an issue of \$600,000 worth of bonds "for improvements" on the information vouchsafed them as to the condition of the city finances, would be to take a leap in the dark.

JUST FOR FUN.

Pic.
"Why do they refer to government office as pie?"
"Because," answered Senator Sargent, "it's something that nearly everybody likes himself, although he thinks it's bad for nearly everybody else."—Washington Star.

Old Habits.
"Have you some short-cake?"
"We have; and such piece contains six gorgeous unripened berries. Six—count them—six."

"My man, you were not always a waiter?"
"No, sir; I used to be press agent for a circus."—Kansas City Journal.

Just Like It.
Redd—I understand that new automobile of yours goes like the wind.
Greene—That's right. Nobody can tell just when the wind is going to start or when it is going to stop.—Yonkers Statesman.

Gathered On The Battlefield of Thought.

On the basis of simple probability it would be concluded at once that four or five years must be set as the period for which the after-panic depression must continue. When we begin to look more closely into the circumstances of the recent panic as compared with those which existed in previous panics, there are both favorable and unfavorable inferences to be drawn in this regard. That we have at present a sound currency system, as we did not have in any of the great preceding panics of our history; that the treasury is in a strong and well-indebted position as it certainly was not in 1893; and that the west, which was almost bankrupt in 1893 and was a helpless debtor of the east in 1873 and 1857, is the strongest element of financial strength at the present time, are three facts in the situation which are not open to denial, and which are bound to exert a very great influence in resisting the influences of financial demoralization and thereby hastening the return of normal good times. On the other hand, when comparison is made with previous outbreaks of actual panic, it cannot be denied that the violence of the shock, the duration of the period of suspension of bank payments, and the magnitude of the phenomena which marked the crisis in 1907 were more formidable in any previous period of the sort. It would not be safe to discard altogether the argument that this itself may be a sign of a situation economically worse than that of the other periods under review. Similarly, it is not open to question that the financial excesses in the use of the credit, the abuses of an over-expanded prosperity, and rashness in the use of capital—which are the cause of all such financial crisis—were practiced on the eve of the panic of 1907 as they never were before.

With the possible exception of 1873, here, then, are the elements by which the general problem already stated must be judged—Alexander D. Noyes in the April Forum.

With convenient and constantly increasing life on art, railway facilities, and the event of the telephone and the automobile, has come the demand for country and suburban houses. Thousands of people, who under the primitive conditions of years gone by, would have shunned the country as a lonely and desolate place, are now glad to own broad acres or a plot of ground beyond the confines of the metropolis, says Cement Age. And with the establishment of these country places has come the desire for artistic environment, which has found expression in the embellishment of

lawns and gardens as well as in the construction of picturesque buildings. Thus great impetus has been given to the profession or science of landscape gardening, which has become quite as important in its way as the work of the architect, the latter frequently undertaking the entire enterprise, from the building of the house to laying out of grounds. This, in turn, has given opportunity for the manufacturers of many things designed to be useful and ornamental, and in all sections of the country enterprises of this character have been established. The business includes the manufacture of columns, urns, benches, fountains, and numberless objects employed as decorative features of the lawn, garden, pergola or terrace. In this field, as in the construction of buildings, the tendency is toward substantial and durable work and genuine artistic merit, and in recognition of its admirable qualities in this respect, concrete is rapidly supplanting all other materials, even terra cotta and marble, that have been used in the arts for centuries but never seemed destined to be supplanted by the more plastic medium.—Cement Age.

The Yellows. One of the severest appeals to and keenest indictments of yellow journalism ever written

has lately appeared from the pen of Prof. W. I. Thomas, of the University of Chicago. His fundamental objection to yellow journalism is based on its appeal to what he calls the "hate attitude" in men. This attitude exists in all of us. It dates back to the days when human beings spent most of their time killing animals or fighting with their fellow creatures. It partakes of the nature of impulse or appetite, and is almost as blindly elemental as hunger itself. During centuries of civilization this hate instinct has been modified and controlled, but under the surface it slumbers yet. A murder trial, a prize fight, a scandalous bit of gossip, an exciting game, have still the power to call it into play. In the light of these facts, says Professor Thomas, it becomes plain that the yellow journal, though it denounces him not, in the face of gibes and insults he continues to decorate his enormous benefactions with his splendid name. His fatherless emporium of philanthropy continues to pour out its contents of libraries, hospitals, and schools, all distinctly marked. Andrew wonders because in the popular demonstrations for him the cheers are interspersed with cat-calls and brickbats. He has read classical history (Bohn) and knows that Aristides was run out of town because people were tired of hearing him called "the just." But if Aristides had gone around calling him "the just" would the Athenians have banished him? Indeed they would, they would have held him down on the ground and pumped the hemlock distillery into him. "It pays to advertise," is a motto which, as an unselfish friend of literature, I would like to see printed on the brain of every man. But the motto is incomplete. It should be: "It pays to advertise something you have to sell." It doesn't pay to advertise what you give away. There is too much fun in giving. Human nature won't permit it to be twice enjoyed.—"The Interpreter," in the May American Magazine.

Preparation. Are the great majority of men and women ready for their children when these come to them? Would you commit to the care of the average parents an important enterprise in which you were especially

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